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Mr. Isaac C. Martindale was elected Treasurer to serve for the unexpired term of the late Mr. William C. Henszey.

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SEPTEMBER 30.

The President, Dr. JOSEPH LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-eight persons present.

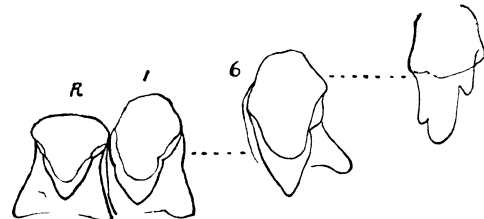
A paper entitled "On the Influence of Previous Pregnancies on Offspring," by Charles Morris, was presented for publication.

*Parasites of Mola rotunda*.—PROF. LEIDY stated that one day during his stay at Beach Haven, N. J., while men of the life saving station were directly off shore watching the bathers in case of accident, a Sun-fish, *Mola rotunda*, approached the boat, apparently, as they supposed, sleeping. The fish, weighing nearly two hundred pounds, was readily taken without resistance. It proved to be of additional interest from the great number and variety of parasites with which it was infested. Some of these had occasioned a considerable degree of ulceration along the base of the caudal fin. Chief among them was the large *Lerneæ*, *Penella filosa*, which hung in great clusters from the root of the dorsal and other fins. They were from five to nearly seven inches long, and had the head and neck, buried in the flesh of the fish from one to three inches. To many of them were appended the curious barnacle, *Conchoderma virgata*; on one *Penella* a bunch of seven, most of which were nearly two inches long. Were also more or less profusely covered with colonies of the Hydroid Polyp, *Eucope parasitica*.

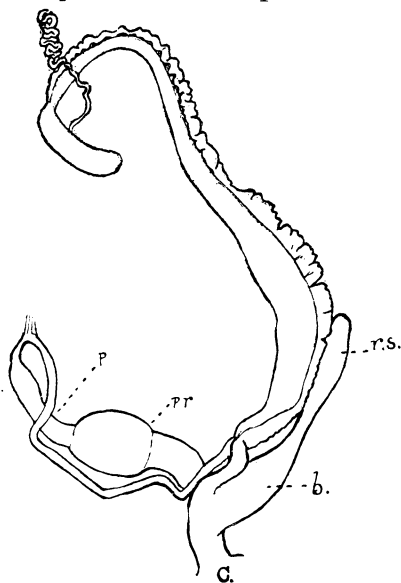
The characters of the *Penella* are as follows: Head compressed spheroid, ventrally thickly papillate, dorsally with a median and lateral pair of obtuse horns. Neck long and cylindrical; with 4 pairs of minute black hooks just behind the head ventrally. Thorax thicker, cylindrical, annulated. Abdomen or tail shorter, narrower and annulated: with crowded, lateral filamentary appendages branching from the base. Ovaries long and filiform. Head, neck and ovaries straw-colored; thorax, abdomen and appendages black.

In the Règne Animal of Cuvier, it says, there is in the Mediterranean a species, *Penella filosa*, seven or eight inches long, which penetrates into the flesh of the Sword-fish, the Tunny and the Sun-fish, and torments them horribly. Similar cases of the wonderful bounty of nature are frequent and remind us of the remarks of Mr. Spencer, considered more favorable to the evolutionary than to the special creation theory. While to both may be applied the question, why the amount of suffering entailed on sentient beings by parasites could not have been avoided, to the former there does not arise the question, why are they deliberately inflicted?

The dentition is like *albolabris* except that the side cutting-points of the central and inner lateral teeth are less developed than Binney's figures show. There is considerable variation in this character, however, in the real *albolabris*.



The genitalia show the affinities of the specimens more plainly than the shells, having the spermatheca or *receptaculum seminis* (*r. s.*) exactly as in Leidy's



figures (Terr. Moll. I.). Its prominent character is in the greatly swollen base of the duct (*b.*), which is found in no other *Mesodon*, but which the observations of Dr. Leidy, W. G. Binney and my own numerous dissections prove to be a constant and very obvious specific character of *albolabris*. The penis-sack (*p.*) is swollen in the middle, as in *albolabris*. The vas deferens is as in *albolabris* except that it is much shorter, not being thrown into a knot or mesh of convolutions before it enters the penis as it is in true *albolabris*. This last character is an important one. The bundles of cœcæ of the ovotestis are shaped like those figured by

Dr. Leidy for *H. thyroides*.

The specimens were collected in August of this year.

Mr. Charles P. Perot was elected a member of the Finance Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the election of Mr. Isaac C. Martindale to the Treasurership.

The following were ordered to be printed:—